

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Numbers 27 & 36

Key Themes: Inheritance, Faith

1. What is the issue raised in 27:1-11?
2. Why does Moses bring their case before the Lord (27:5) and how does the Lord answer?
3. What is the follow up issue raised in 36:1-4? How does the Lord answer this time?
4. How do the five daughters of Zelophehad respond to this requirement (36:10-12)?
5. What is the inheritance that Christians (and these women) ultimately look to? Look up Hebrews 11:13-16.
6. Where does this inheritance come from? (1 Peter 1:3)
7. Is our inheritance safe? How so? (See 1 Peter 1:4-5)
8. How does the response of the daughters help us see how we should respond to God's gracious work?
9. What other things might we be tempted to make the 'main thing rather than the eternal inheritance God gives us in Christ Jesus? How can we keep our eyes fixed on the prize?

Numbers 31

Key Themes: Battle, victory, celebration, holy war

1. What is the purpose behind this battle (31:1-2, 15-16 and 25:1-3)?
2. How does the battle go? What makes this successful?
3. How do the people respond and what does it tell us of their obedience to God compared with the previous generation (31:7, 21-54)?
4. How should we understand battle passages in the light of Jesus' work and his command to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44, 1 Corinthians 15:57, Colossians 2:15 and Ephesians 6:12)?
5. How would you answer the objection that this passage shows that the God of the Old Testament is different from the God of the New?
6. What does this teach us about how Christians should battle and how we should enjoy the victory that Christ has won (Romans 8:1-13)?

Numbers 22-24

Key Themes: Blessing, spiritual protection, hope in Christ

1. These chapters serve as a great comfort and give confidence for God's people. That God puts words in a Donkey's mouth shows us the stupidity of Balaam - The donkey sees what he can't and eventually learns - you can't curse God's blessed people. Begin by reading Ephesians 1:1-6 and Romans 8:30-39 to see that today's blessings aren't physical battle victory, but through the death and victory of Jesus on the Cross doing battle with the spiritual forces. Do keep this in mind as you look closer at the Balaam and Barak narrative.
2. What makes king Balak so concerned in Numbers 22:1-4 and what does he do about it?
3. What does God initially say to Balaam in Numbers 22:9-13? How does Numbers 22:19-20, show that Balaam isn't seeking obedience to God, but to gain the riches of Balak?
4. What does the story of the donkey in Numbers 23 tell us about God and about Balaam? Why do you think God responds the way he does in Numbers 23:34-35?
5. Numbers 23:7-10 and Numbers 23:18-24 contain 2 poems of Balaam. What assurances do they give us today as God's people, especially in light of the verses in question 1?
6. Where do we get our confidence and hope from?

Numbers 20-21

Key Themes: Grumbling, judgment, salvation

1. In Numbers 20:1, a whole 40 years have passed and a new generation of God's people are poised to enter the promised land. What does 20:2-5 tell you about their past and their perspective?
2. The focus on this section isn't on the people this time, but on Moses, their leader. What is striking about Moses' attitude in 20:6-11? What is the significance of speaking to the Rock, compared to Exodus 17 where Moses has to strike the rock? Even though Moses disobeys with an angry outburst, do the people get water? What does this tell us about God's character?
3. What does God do in response to Moses (20:12-13)?
4. In Numbers 22:4 the people have to walk all around the nation of Edom, a much longer distance than anticipated. What do they do in response to this (21:4-5)?
5. Do you think God's punishment is a little harsh (21:6)? What does this tell you about the seriousness of grumbling? How does God save them from themselves (21:7-9)?

6. In John 2:14-16 Jesus link his own death to that of the bronze snake, what does this say about the salvation Jesus offers?
7. Numbers 21:16-18 ends very differently from the start of the chapter. What do you notice about this moment and how is this a picture of the effect of God's grace upon us today?

Numbers 13-14

Key Themes: Faith, Obedience

1. What task is given to the spies (13:17-33) and what do they report on, noticing the fears they have and the goodness of the land.
2. How does Caleb intervene (13:30) and what does he say? How does this show the people had lost focus on God and what do they hide behind (14:2-3) ?
3. What does the Lord declare he will do (14:10-12)? What does Moses base his prayer of intercession on (14:13-19)?
4. What are these consequences (14:21-38) and why do you think there still are consequences?
5. What is our promised land and what, exactly, has God promised about it? Why should we be certain about getting there?
6. Who intercedes for Christians today (Hebrews 2:17-3:1 and 4:14-16) and how does this speak into our fears, doubts and temptations?

Numbers 1-2 and 9

Key Themes: Presence, Provision, Holiness

1. As you begin, share with your group different types of numbers that you enjoy reading about: Footy stats, performance figures, finance or math, etc. The book of Numbers continues lots of lists and census data that may seem irrelevant, but only until we see what it's there for. Read Numbers 1:1-4 and Numbers 1:47-54. What sort of census is this? What does this tell us about that the Israelites can expect in the wilderness? Why are the Levites not counted?
2. Read Numbers 2:1-2. The rest of this chapter is the camping arrangements of God's people. What do you notice about how they are arranged? What is at the center of their camp and what effect would this have on them?
3. What is the common phrase repeated in Numbers 9:15-23? What confidence does this give God's people?
4. Read John 1:14. God has made his presence known to his people in the Tabernacle. How does God accompany our journey today? What is the response

of God's people to the presence of God in Numbers and what should our response be to the presence of Jesus? See Numbers 1:19 and 54.